BLUE · NETWORK · COMPANY

B-CPRO-7

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #529

PROGRAM TITLE
SUSTAINING

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1943

DAY & DATE

11:30-12:00 NOON BLUE

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS	CAST
JERRY	JOHN LARKIN
JIM	HARVEY HAYS
ANDY	FRED SULLIVAN
DICK	FRANK DANE

SOUND	REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:
This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: One of the most destructive agents here at home is fire -- especially the man-made forest fire. During wartime, Forest fires are particularly vicious because they can do far more than destroy valuable timber. They can make it necessary to shift manpower out of the war plants and off the farms --- a very costly practice in terms of war production. Smoke from forest fires serioudly interferes with the training of our airplane pilots, and it could even invite attacks by enemy subs or planes. So our Wartime Forest Fire Prevention Campaign is still on, reminding us to do our level best in keeping down the forest and woods and grass fires that serve only to delay Victory. And, whenever we strike a match, or smoke, or burn brush in or near the forest, let's remember this: Our Carelessness is the Enemy's Secret Weapon!....Now to the Pine Cone Ranger Station where we find Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant, Jerry Quick, talking things over with Andy Goodman, the Winding Creek Storekeeper and recently appointed Local Coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service, volunteer forest protection arm of the Office of Civilian Defense. Here they are:

JERRY: (FADING IN) The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker....there's room for all of 'em in the Forest Fire Fighters Service, huh, Mr. Goodman?

ANDY: You betcha, and they're all with us here in Wirling Creek too. We're going to have some outfit, Jim.

JIM: All joining up, huh, Andy? Willoughby the banker, and Jenkins the druggist, and all?

ANDY: Yeah, and some of the womenfolk too, Jim. The response to our recruiting here in the north end of the country has been swell. Even Preacher Douglas signed up, and more'n that, he's lined up four or five of the rural preachers in his crew.

JERRY: Boy, that's something, all right. Wait till Preacher Douglas and his men fight some forest fires; I bet they'll sure tell about the red-hot fires that await all sinners, next time they give their sermons.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yep, I reckon.....Well, it all proves what I've always said, Andy. Give the folks at home a job they can sink their teeth in, and brother, you've got as good a fighting army as there is at the front. And keeping fires down is gonna take a real fightin' crew, too.

JERRY: Tell me this, Mr. Goodman. Why is it everybody's so anxious to join up with the Triple F-S? Do they think it's gonna be a thrill fighting fire, or do they all want to get one of those good-looking arm-bands with the red pine tree on it?

JERRY: (TURNING TO) The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker... there's room for all of 'em in the Forest Fire Fighters Service, huh, Mr. Goodman?

ANDY: You betcha, and they're all with us here in Wildcat Creek too. We're going to have some outfit, Jim, all joining up, huh, Andy? Willoughby the banker, and Jenkins the druggist, and Lil?

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ANDY: Oh, I suppose a few of 'em are just hankerin' for excitement, Jerry, but I honestly think most of the folks are joining up with the Forest Fire Fighters Service because they know, like Jim says, that we can't afford to let woods fires mess up our war job. They like the arm-bands, sure, but to them they're just part of the whole things, like a badge of honor, see?

JERRY: Sure. I think it's swell, Mr. Goodman.

JIM: Andy, your Forest Fire Fighters Service sure is goin' to be a God-send to fellers like Jerry and me and Tom Hatcher, the State Ranger. All of us have had our regular fire crews slashed to the bone because of the war.

ANDY: Thanks, Jim. I think we can do the job soon as you get us trained up a little.

JIM: There's one thing botherin' me, Andy.

ANDY: What's that?

JIM: I've been noticin' how you've kept talkin' about your Triple F-S crews around Winding Creek, here. But you're supposed to be Local Coordinator for all of Pine Cone County. You haven't said a word about how recruiting's going down there in the south end of the county, around Clearwater.

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ANDY: I know, Jim. That's what I really came here to talk to you about.....You see, we're not doin' so hot recruitin' volunteer crews down around Clearwater, Jim.

JERRY: Holy smokes...With the woods down that way, those people need a real honest-to-goodness firefighting organization if anybody does.

JIM: What's their objection to the Triple F-S, Andy?

ANDY: Oh, they haven't got anything against the Triple F-S, Jim. It's just that they figure they haven't got time to mess with it. With the training and organization and all.

JERRY: Yeah, I can understand that. They're mostly farmers down there in Clearwater and they're pretty short-handed and all, right now.

JIM: It shouldn't take much time for them to organize into a good fire-fighting outfit. Shucks. Most of those folks have fought fire in the past. That'd count toward their twelve hours of training.

ANDY: That's what I told Dick Hawkins--I was figuring Dick would make a crackerjack squad leader for that section. But he wouldn't hardly take time to talk with me about it.

JIM: One thing Clearwater's always lacked it an up-to-date fire-fighting outfit. I hate to see 'em pass up a swell chance like this to get one organized.

JERRY: But look, Jim. Those folks <u>are</u> busy as all Harry. You know yourself how hard most of 'em are working, trying to raise more crops, or out in their woods gettin' out timber for war.

JIM: I know it, Jerry. But that's all the more reason why they can't afford to let fire run wild in their woods.

ANDY: Dick Hawkins said not to worry about that. He said he and his neighbors would help out on any fires that started.

JIM: Yeah, I know they're all willing enough to help. But it takes a little more than that. S'pose they had a fire on a bad day, maybe, with the wind up and the woods dry as tinder like they get sometimes. Why, before Dick Hawkins could round up enough of his neighbors and get all the tools they'd need and the like, and that fire'd be all over the country.

JERRY: Yeah, it takes organization, and preparation--something like this volunteer Forest Fire Fighters Service. With everything lined up, and the right tools always handy, and some of the women folks to help out and back the men up, they'd had Old Man Fire half-licked to begin with.

ANDY: You're right as rain, Jerry. But just try and get Dick Hawkins to see that. And he speaks pretty well for a lot of the folks down there. It's all a matter of time as far as Dick's concerned and taking time out to line up a Triple F-S just can't be fitted into his schedule, 'cording to him.

JIM: Well, there're only twenty-four hours in a day, of course, but sometimes makin' a few little changes here and there can help a feller get lots more done than usual.

JERRY: What're you talking about, Jim?

JIM: I've got an idea. Let's head down and see Dick Hawkins.

ANDY: I was hopin' you'd suggest doin' just that, Jim. Maybe you can persuade him.

JIM: I don't want to "persuade" anybody to do anything, Andy. I don't even like the word and I know most folks don't like to be argued into things, either. But I've got a feeling that if Dick Hawkins stops to think about it a little, he'll persuade himself to do something that ought to be done. (FADE) Come on, let's go.

PAUSE

FADE IN SOUND OF SHOVEL SCRAPING, BROKEN BY OCCASIONAL THUMP OF UNLOADING AND FRIGHTENED CHIRP OF CHICKS: SUSTAIN.....

JIM: Ain't you scared you'll kill some of those baby chicks, Dick, walkin' and shovelling all around 'em that way?

DICK: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Well, I can't help it, Jim, I've gotta get this brooder cleaned. But about that Fire Fightin' Service or whatever it is. I tell you, Jim, us farmers don't have time for any extra doin's these days. If I wasn't so all-fired rushed, I wouldn't keep right on working like this when you came visiting. 'Tain't that I don't want to be sociable.

ANDY: Don't mind that, Dick. Go on with your work. If there was some way we could help we'd all pitch in.

JIM: Well, about the forest fire business, Dick. What if you folks down here get a real bad fire? Ain't it likely you might have to spend a whole lot of time on that fire, time that you ought to be spending on your farm work? A few hours of organizing here in Clearwater might make a whale of a difference later on, Dick.

DICK: (SLIGHTLY OFF, WORKING) I've thought of that, Jim. But I guess that's just a chance us folks'll have to take. (SOUND OF FRIGHTENED CHICK UP) Get out of the way, you.

JERRY: (SOTTO) Gosh, he came awful close to stepping on that chick.

SHOVEL SCRAPES, THEN THUMP, SOUND OF DOOR BEING CLOSED AND LATCHED, CHIRPS OF CHICKENS SUBSIDE.

DICK: (COMING ON) Well, that's that for a while. I got to get some hay down in the barn now....No, Jim, like I tell you. We've got our hands full keepin' our farms goin' these days. No time for anything but the work right here.

JIM: Uh huh.....I was just thinkin', Dick. Do you always clean your brooder house like you just did? Workin' from the front and shovellin' back and forth, and getting dirt on the chicks and scaring 'em half to death, every time you do the job?

DICK: Only one way to clean out a brooder house, far's I know, and that's to go ahead and clean it.

JIM: I was just wonderin' why it wouldn't be a good idea to clean your brooder house by starting at the back and workin' toward the door. That way, seems to me, you could put down a little bed for thechicks, drive 'em on it where they'll be safe and easy and stay clean; and then go ahead and clean out the rest of the house. Why wouldn't that work, Dick?

DICK: Doggone, Jim Robbins! Why didn't I ever think of that? The truth is, it's always bothered me to work over the chicks. Say, that's swell idea. It'd save me a little time, too.

JERRY: I'd never of thought of that, Jim.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Jerry, when you've been in the Forest Service as long as I have you'll find it's the most natural thing in the world to try and find the quickest and easiest ways of doing things. That's where training comes in and the Forest Service has been a pioneer, you might say, in the field of training. Take, for instance, that "one-lick method" of clearing fire line that we worked out. A crew of men can make fire line a lot faster that way than when each fella goes at it according to his own notion.

DICK: Well, I'm sure going to tell the boys about this idea, Jim.....Say, You go any more good ideas? (CHUCKLES) It could be I might even go along with you fellers on this Fire Fighting business if you showed me how to save enough time here on the far to make up for what I'd have to spend training up.

JIM: Well, Dick, I was noticing how you carried your fuel from that barrel way over there to the stove tank here at the brooder house.....

DICK: Now wait a minute, Jim. How else would I get the fuel into the tank?

JIM: Why can't you move that barrel right over here to the brooder house, Dick? And attach it to the outside with a pipe going right to the stove: That way, all you'd have to do is fill the barrel and that'd be the last time you'd have to handle it.

DICK: I'll be jiggered. That's the way to do it, all right.

ANDY: Another thing, Dick. Now that Jim's got us started looking for ways to save steps and time around the place and all...how come you've got that door on the barn way over on this side when the gate to your house is way up there at the back of the barn?

DICK: (SHEEPISHLY) Well, the first barn I had was near the gate, Andy. It burned down ten-fifteen years ago so I built this barn here. I guess I just never thought to change the gate. I just never took time to.....

JERRY: Well, good gravy, it'd save you walking a hundred feet or more if you changed the gate even now, or changed the door on the barn, Mr. Hawkins. That's a lot of walking that'd be saved in a year's time.

DICK: Yeah, I realize that now, Jerry.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Seems like we sorta ganged up on you, Dick. (SERIOUS) And yet, with the load you farmers have to carry, and I guess that goes for farmers all over America, maybe this is the best time of all to have a look-see at the way you do things on your place....even at the little things, 'cause a little time saved here and little time saved there can add up to a whole lot of time and what counts when labor's scarce, and machinery's hard to get.

DICK: By George, you're right, Jim....Well, where is it, Andy? Where's the paper you want us folks here in Clearwater to sign so we can get to be members of this Fire Fighting organization of yours?

JERRY: You mean you'll really help line up a Forest Fire Fighters Service down here, Mr. Hawkins? That's swell!

JIM: Good for you, Dick. We'll all rest a lot easier knowing there'll be a Triple F-S outfit on the job down here. We won't have to worry about all these woods going up in smoke or pulling men out of the mill to fight fire. No, sir. Not with you Clearwater men on the job, and organized to take care of anything that might happen.

ANDY: Here's the application for membership in the Forest Fire Fighters Service, Dick. Take it and look it over before you fill it out. Then you can give it to John Thompson who heads up your local Defense Council here in Clearwater.

DICK: Yeah. Thanks, Andy...And now, Jim, talking about the woods and all....I'll be honest with you. I'm looking forward to the training you fellers are goin' to give us in fighting fire, all right, but the truth is I'm thinking about something else, too.

JIM: Huh? What's that, Dick?

DICK: Well, you'll have to give us this training right here in Clearwater, won't you?

JIM: Yeah, sure, but what's that got to.....

DICK: Well, I'm thinking that so long as you'll be around here anyway maybe you could figure out some other ways we could streamline out work....like milking for instance.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, Dick, I haven't tried my hand at milking for a long time, but seein' it's for the good of the Forest Fire Fighter's Service, I'll do my level best.

ALL LAUGH OUT

MUSICAL FINALE

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ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.....

(BERGOFFEN)

BJ
ECG-4-5-43
12:15 AM